GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1720
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2000
TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where the telephone directory could not be printed in time during the last three years due to contractual failure;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the policy relating to printing of telephone directory to ensure their timely printing;

(c) if so, whether the telephone directory brought out in Delhi by the Government is very illegible and there is great difficulty in locating a telephone number or read the name of a persons; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to bring out a clear and legible telephone directories?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SH.TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Sir, the present policy of the department is to print one telephone directory for each telecom district every alternate year & a supplementary directory in the intervening year. In most of the States, there are more than one telecom district. While in some telecom districts of each State, the printing of telephone directories were completed in time, at some places the same has been delayed due to various reasons such as non-availability of contractors due to economic backwardness of the area, litigation due to contractual failure etc.

(b) Yes, Sir. Earlier the telephone directories were printed on positive royalty basis. Whenever those could not be printed on positive royalty such cases were referred to department of Telecom Head Quarters by the Circles for relaxation of the conditions. This process caused certain amount of delay in bringing out the directories. Recently, the telephone directory printing policy has been reviewed and it has been decided to print the directories even on negative royalty or on cost sharing basis. CGMs of the telecom circles have been delegated almost full powers to decide such cases in order to bring out the directories in time. In this review, the earlier arrangement of providing full directory each year has also been modified to printing of directory in alternate years and a supplementary directory in the intervening year. This will further help in timely printing of directories.

(c) Telephone Directories in Delhi unit were got printed with 6 point printing according to DoT guidelines on the subject. However some complaints regarding illegibility have been received.

(d) To obviate the complaint, MTNL propose to bring out next Directory using 8 point printing & improved Paper quality.